

Easement

AL-IV-A-102

Town Clock Church
312 Bedford Street, Cumberland
1848

Built by a German speaking congregation in 1848 the Town Clock Church is the oldest church building without major renovations to be found in Cumberland. Standing on high ground its bell and clock tower can clearly be seen from different parts of downtown Cumberland. Henry Ward Beecher, famous abolitionist, political campaigner, and humanitarian once practiced his emotional style of preaching at this church in 1866.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 20 1973

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH (preferred); German Evangelical Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Sixth
Allegany

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☐ ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Christian Church Attention: The Reverend Evert C. Millard

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

AL IV-A-102

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Town Clock Church is located on Bedford Street at High Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

The church is a one-story brick building on a high stone basement and is three bays wide by four long. The east gable end is the principal facade and the clock tower rises from the peak of the roof at this end. The brick is laid in common bond with five or six rows of stretchers to each row of headers on all facades except the east; here the brick is laid in all stretcher bond. The basement is constructed of neatly laid blocks of sandstone on the east and random coursed rubble stone elsewhere. (The east was faced with sandstone in 1910.) At the northeast corner there are quoins in the basement and a granite cornerstone dated "June 1, 1848."

The gable roof retains its original covering of slate shingles. There are four brick chimneys, three in original positions near the center of the building set just inside the eaves line. One chimney, at the northwest corner, is new. The steeple consists of a four-part brick tower with spire on top. The base is square with a wood cornice; above this is a section with clock faces on all four sides, pilasters on the corners, and another cornice. The belfry portion has round-arched ventilators on all sides with one pilaster at each corner, making it octagonal, and a dentiled cornice. The spire, sitting on an octagonal base with recessed panels, is covered with slate in alternating rows of rectangular and imbricated shingles. A lightning rod extends from the end of the spire.

The north, south, and east facades are divided into bays by brick pilasters with wooden caps. The pilasters at the end of each facade meet and form a right angle at the corners. The wide cornice on the north, south, and east consists of two narrow bands of brick forming a belt course just above the capitals on the pilasters and a wood cornice above; both of these and the brick wall between are painted white, creating the illusion of a very wide cornice around these three sides of the building. On the rear (west) facade the wide, white cornice returns; however, though the wood cornice ends here the brick part continues across the back.

Above the cornice on the east facade is a pediment with slightly projecting pavilion in the center. Two round-arched, double-hung sash, stained glass windows are contained in the projecting section. The wood cornice on the top of the pediment and the brick cornice below also both project in the center. A marble plaque in the brick part of the cornice reads "Deutfche Evng Luth Kirche 1848." Below the projection in the pediment is a narrow bay formed by two pilasters set rather close together. Between these is a round stained glass window, and below this is the entrance with a portico standing on a high stone base.

The main entrance is composed of double doors, each with one panel, and above is a semicircular, stained glass transom with brick arch with marble keystone. The portico has a pediment with three-part entablature with dentils supported by two wood columns and two wood pilasters, all of the Ionic order. The stair with fancy iron railing leading up to the entrance was built in 1910. On either side of the center bay is a stained glass window with four rectangular lights and two quarter-circles above. There is a marble keystone in the brick arch above each window and wooden sills below.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

AL-IV-A-102

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DATE ENTERED

Town Clock Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Two doors beneath the portico lead to the basement.

The north and south side elevations have windows identical to those in the front, without the marble keystones and with brick sills. There are three basement windows on the north with arches of rough stone; two have 2/2, double-hung sash and one has a three-light casement sash. The windows are the same on the south, where there is also an original entrance with a new door.

The west end has a gabled parapet capped with tin. The chancel projects in the center of this facade; a stained glass, round-arched window is located in this projection. A small hipped roof addition is built onto the north side of the projection. The door and window openings of this small addition have been altered somewhat; the roof is covered with slate shingles. A second addition stands on the south side of the church. It is a one-story, brick structure, stuccoed and scored to resemble masonry. It has a shed roof with a false parapet on the east, and is three bays across on the east and seven bays long. Both the additions were built with nails rather than pegs as the church was.

The Town Clock Church is constructed with a central entrance, narthex, inset tower, nave, chancel, and balcony. In each of two rooms on either side of the narthex is a stairway leading to the balcony, which is divided in half by a large pipe organ. The chancel area is raised on a platform and includes a choir loft on both sides, an organ loft, and behind this a baptismal pool. At the rear of the chancel area are two wooden pilasters supporting an elliptically arched vault. Between these pilasters are two tiers of paneling, one on either side of a window-like frame closed by a heavy curtain, which is opened for the viewing of baptisms in the pool behind the paneling. The present tiled ceiling is below the original plaster one; both of them are shallow arched vaults. The walls of the church are plastered.

Each stairway leading to the balcony has one run with a winder. They are simply made of oak, with balusters carved in a rounded cross pattern and a newel with a J-shaped curve and simple post. The wooden pegs connecting the handrail and the newel are clearly visible.

The woodwork in the church is mostly architrave trim. In the nave are three sets of double doors, each a single wide plank with a cross-shaped window. At the entrance to the nave are two pilasters supporting the balcony. The face of the balcony is decorated with slats with arches between them. In the nave are twenty-four long pews. The chancel is surrounded by a railing with architrave panels made of oak. The wooden pilasters at the base of the vault behind the chancel are fluted.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

AL-TY-A-102

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Town Clock Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The church has two organs, an electric one in the chancel and a 19th century organ that was recently renovated in the balcony. A handpump for operating the organ is located in the balcony, but the organ has been converted to electric power. Six lamps hanging on chains over the nave are metal with stained glass. The stained glass windows each have one light that is painted with either a floral or a landscape scene.

B SIGNIFICANCE

AL-IV-A-102

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic history	history of western Maryland

SPECIFIC DATES 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Harry Schmenner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Town Clock Church was built in 1848 by its German Lutheran congregation. Western Maryland was largely settled by Germans coming from Pennsylvania, beginning in the 18th century and continuing into the 19th century. The cornerstone and name stone of this church are in German, serving as a visual reminder of the building's past.

Although the church has been used by a congregation other than the German one which built it for 45 years, it is still historically significant for its relationship to Cumberland's 19th century German population. The building was designed by a German-speaking member of the congregation, one Harry Schmenner, and has remained basically unaltered since its construction. The date on the cornerstone is inscribed in German as is the name of the church over the main entrance.

The church building itself is modest and typical of institutional architecture of the 1840s and 1850s. The clock tower and the building's location on a hill give the church an impressive height resulting in its prominence in the city scape.

HISTORY

The high number of German immigrants arriving in Cumberland around 1838 necessitated the formation of a separate German speaking congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The first confirmation service in German was conducted in 1844.¹ Nativist feelings in America were running high during these times and Cumberland was not an exception. In 1848 the English speaking congregation of St. Paul's gave notice to the German speaking congregation that after the first of October no services in an alien language could be conducted in their building.²

In February of 1848 the German congregation received a charter as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and began building their own church.³ With land and foundation stones donated by Thomas Shriver, the mayor of Cumberland at that time, the congregation of 35 had laid a cornerstone by the first of June.⁴ This cornerstone, located in the northeast corner of the building, contains coins of every denomination, German church literature, and copies of the charter and deed of the church. Designed by Harry Schmenner, a member of the congregation, the building was completed and dedicated in March of 1850.⁵

Local tradition suggests that the German Lutheran Church won its clock and chimes in a city-sponsored competition awarding them to the congregation which finished the 15 clock tower. Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church was the only competitor.⁶

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

AL-IV-A-102

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Town Clock Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The most historic event to take place at this church was the visit of Henry Ward Beecher, famous abolitionist, political campaigner, and humanitarian, who practiced his emotional style of preaching at this church in 1866. In 1895 services were changed to English.⁷ The building has been the home of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1931.⁸

Being the oldest church building without major renovations to be found in Cumberland the Town Clock Church has several distinguishing architectural features. The most prominent of these is the bell and clock tower that is clearly seen from different parts of downtown Cumberland. The white marble keystones, circular stained glass window, and wide cornice are smaller features that greatly contribute to the overall impressiveness of the east facade. The inscription and cornerstone are features that reveal the German heritage of the church, and the prominence of the structure illustrates the large part the German population played in this area.

¹James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland (Philadelphia: L.R.Titsworth and Co., 1923), p. 472.

²Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County - A History (Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976), p. 166.

³Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

⁴United Church Women of the Greater Cumberland Area, Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, 1776-1976, p. 27.

⁵Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

⁶Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.

⁷Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

⁸Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AL-IV-A-102

Allegany County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland.
(Also see footnotes to the Significance Statement)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Cumberland Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 692080 4391870

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot Size: 75' x 120'; Ref.: Allegany County Deed 199/221.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

October 4, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



6-19-79

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

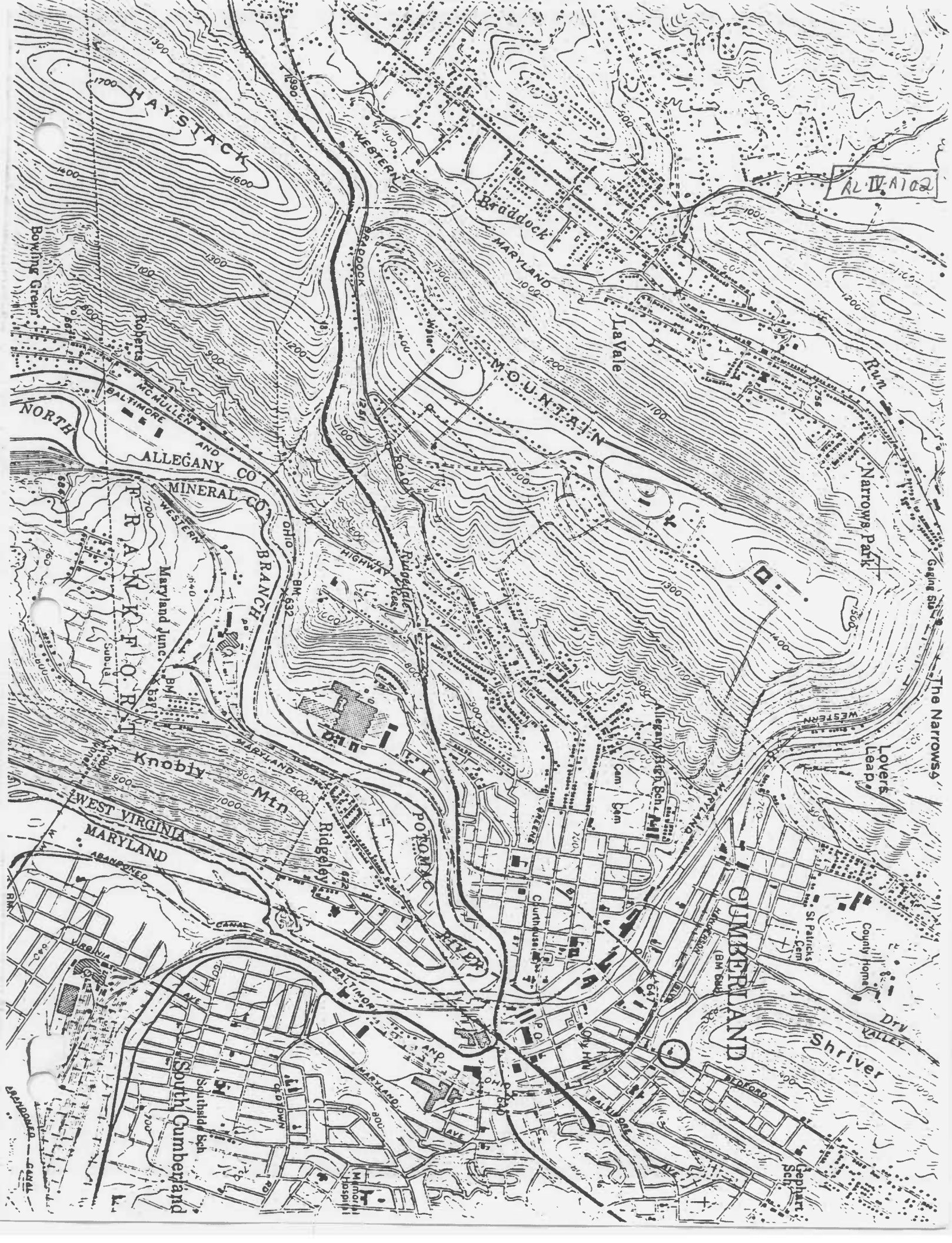
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Town Clock Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Christian Church

Telephone #: 777-3909

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland, 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 192

Folio #: 221

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-IV-A-102

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Town Clock Church is located on Bedford Street at High Street, Cumberland, Maryland.

The building basically consists of a one and one half story, three bay wide, rectangular shaped structure. Wall construction is brick, laid in American Common Bond using both five to one and six to one variation. Stretcher Bond is featured on the eastern facade which is the front of the church. The use of wooden pegs is evident in the main church itself both inside and out while the two additions used nails in their construction. The building displays brick pilasters with wooden caps. Four of these on the East and West, five on the North and South. A continuous brick belt course completely surrounds the building. The building is supported by a high, stone foundation featuring smooth surface regular ashlar bond construction on eastern facade while the rest of the building has coursed rubble stone bond. The water table is plain. Some quoins are located on the northeast corner of the basement. Also located here is a granite corner-stone which reads "Juni 1, 1848." The roof of the building is gable front. On the western end of the roof is a gabled parapet capped with tin. The covering of the roof is original with rectangular slate shingles. Located on the roof are snowbirds. There are four brick chimneys on the church. Three are located in original positions, replaced, with corbeled caps, located interior. One is a new, exterior side chimney located on the northern facade. On top of the roof is an inset, single centre steeple which is a five part tower containing two three-part entablatures, one wooden cornice with frieze; and one brick cornice. The belfry section of the tower on each of its four sides has a louvered ventilator with semicircular brick arches over the heads of each. The section below the belfry has clock faces on all four sides. On top of the steeple is a spire covered with slate shingles of alternating rows of rectangular and imbricated pattern. Mounted on the peak of the spire is a lightning rod. The main entrance to the church is located in the center of the eastern facade on the first floor. It is composed of double doors each are one paneled, verticle board, replaced with a stained glass semicircular transom. Over the door is a semicircular brick arch with decorated marble keystone. In front of the doors is a portico with triangular pediment featuring a three part entablature with dentils. The pediment is supported by two Roman Columns with ionic caps and two square pilasters. Pediment and columns are all wooden. Imbricated slate shingles decorate the panel within the triangle of the pediment. Above the triangular pediment built into the facade of the church is a fixed, round, stained glass window with circular wooden trim, itself, surrounded by a circular brick arch. Directly above this is a boxed cornice with soffit and frieze that continues around the church on the northern and southern facade with return ends on the west. This boxed cornice plus the fact that the eaves of the roof on the eastern facade exhibit fascia with soffit and frieze gives the front of the building the appearance of a monumental pediment. Located directly in the center of the frieze of the boxed cornice above the circular stained glass window is a marble plaque who's inscription reads "Deutsche Evng Luth Kirche 1848."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1848 John Hassel and members BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Schmenner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The high number of German immigrants arriving in Cumberland around 1838 necessitated the formation of a separate German speaking congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The first confirmation service in German was conducted in 1844. ¹ Nativist feelings in America were running high during these times and Cumberland was not an exception. In 1848 the English speaking congregation of St. Paul's gave notice to the German speaking congregation that after the first of October no services in an alien language could be conducted in their building. ²

In February of 1848 the German congregation received a charter as German Evangelical Lutheran Church and began building their own church. ³ With land and foundation stones donated from Thomas Shriver, who was the mayor of Cumberland at the time, the congregation of 35 had laid a cornerstone by the first of June. ⁴ This cornerstone, which is located in the northeast corner of the building contains coins of every denomination, German church literature, and copies of the charter and deed of the church. Designed by Henry Schmenner, a member of the congregation, the building was completed and dedicated in March of 1850. ⁵

Local tradition suggests that German Lutheran Church won its clock and chimes in a city-sponsored competition awarding them to the congregation which finished the first clock tower. St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church was the only competitor. ⁶ The most historic event to take place at this church was in 1866 when Henry Ward Beecher, famous abolitionist, political campaigner, and humanitarian, practiced his emotional style of preaching at this church. In 1895 services were changed to English. ⁷ The building has been the home of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1931. ⁸

Being the oldest church building without major renovations to be found in Cumberland, the Town Clock Church has several distinguishing architectural features. The most prominent of these is the bell and clock tower that is clearly seen from different parts of downtown Cumberland. The white marble keystones, circular stained glass windows are smaller features that greatly contribute to the over all beauty of the eastern facade. The most impressive addition to the original building is the stairway leading to the entrance made in 1910. The inscription and cornerstones are features that not only add to the beauty of the building but also remind the viewer of the church's contribution to Cumberland's heritage.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records Cumberland, Maryland
 Thomas, James W., and Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County. Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923.
 Stegmaier, Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976.
 United Church Women of the Greater Cumberland Area, Bicentennial Histories, 1776-1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 75 x 120

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

10/4/77

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland, Maryland

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Directly above this are two double hung stained glass arched windows with semicircular brick arches over the heads and wooden slipsills at their bases. There are two identical stained glass windows with mullion on the first floor of the eastern facade; one on either side of the main entrance with six lights each. Four lights are rectangular and above these are two quarter round lights, all fixed. Above the windows surrounding their heads are semicircular brick arches made with elongated bricks including decorated marble keystones; wooden slipsills are located at their bases. Entrance to the basement directly under the portico is by two doors each of which are three paneled, horizontal boards, and one light window each. The stairway leading from the portico has three landings and heavy iron railings which was constructed in 1910 when the eastern foundation was sheathed with sandstone. An iron gate at Bedford Street has been removed. The northern facade has three basement windows with roughstone arches on top and wooden slipsills at the bases and plain wooden sash frames. One is three lights that swings up, the other two are two-over-two lights, double hung. First floor has four identical stained glass windows with mullion with six lights each. Four lights are rectangular and fixed; above are two quarter round lights that swing in. Heads of the windows are surrounded by semicircular brick arches with elongated bricks. Double row brick slipsills are located at their bases. The southern facade has an original basement entrance with replaced door composed of five panels, horizontal boards with a flat roughstone arch over the head of the door. The first floor windows are identical to those of the first floor of the northern facade. The western facade has one basement three light window that is boarded up, with a flat roughstone arch over the head and wooden slipsill at the base. First floor features the back of the main chancel stained glass window with five lights. Top light is half-round, all are fixed with wooden sash frame and trim and having a semicircular brick arch over the head and double row brick slipsill at the base. Also featured on the western facade is a brick cornice. The church has two additions. The older of the two is one story, brick, located in the northwest corner of the church with hipped roof of slate shingles and limestone foundation. On the roof are snowboards. The entrance here faces north, composed of double doors made of metal, opening out into a cement patio with concrete block walls. Right beside these new doors, one can see where the original door stood. Now it is bricked shut with its original semicircular brick arch still intact. Another door on the addition originally stood facing south. Again, bricked shut with semicircular brick arch still intact. Steps and foundation leading to this door have been both removed and filled in with dirt. This addition once contained three windows on its western facade. Now one is bricked shut. The other two have two lights each, fixed. Top lights of each is half-round. All windows have semi-circular brick arches at heads and the two remaining windows have single row brick slipsills at their bases. The other addition is located on the southern facade of the church. It is one story, brick covered with cement, that is tooled on its eastern facade to resemble blocks. It has a shed roof with false parapet on eastern facade with a tin cap. There are two entrances. One entrance is located on western facade whose door is original, composed of three panels, horizontal boards and one light. The other entrance is on northern facade. Door is original, single piece plywood, painted red with a diamond shaped window with metal frame. Seven one-over-one lights, double hung windows, plain trim, wooden sash frames, with wooden slipsills are located on the addition's south facade. Three, one-over-one lights, double hung windows with mullion with segmental arch tooled in cement, with cement slipsills are located on this addition's eastern facade.

This church is a monument to the atmosphere of religious freedom and to the resourcefulness of those who came to Cumberland from abroad. By bringing with them the talents of "Old World," these earlier inhabitants of Cumberland endeavoring to practice their freedom of religion in a new country, constructed something truly American.

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1. James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland (Philadelphia: L.R. Tittsworth and Co., 1923) p. 472.
 2. Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County-A History (Parsons, W. Va. McClain Printing Co., 1976) p. 166.
 3. Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland p. 473.
 4. United Church Women of the Greater Cumberland Area, Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, 1776-1976, p. 27.
 5. Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland p. 473.
 6. Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.
 7. Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland p. 473
 8. Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches. p. 27.

Western Facade - main chancel window in large rectangular bay.

Steeple - Five-part tower including two three part entablatures, one wooden cornice with frieze, one unusual brick cornice on top. Belfry in steeple has four louvered ventilators and semicircular brick arch. Clock faces on all four sides of steeple.

Two Inscriptions - marble plaque above entrance "Deutsche Evng. Luth. Kirche 1848" granite cornerstone in northeast corner "Juni 1, 18 8"

Front stairway added in 1910 when eastern facade was sheathed in sandstone. Three landings, heavy iron rail, three flights of steps, iron gate at Bedford Street removed.

ADDITION (TWO)

One story, brick, northwest corner of church, hipped roof of slate shingles limestone foundation, five semicircular brick arches, three windows one bricked shut. Two have two lights, fixed, brick, single row slipsills, snowboards, two doors bricked shut. There are two pilasters, soffit and boxed cornice. Cement patio with concrete block wall at entrance.

Addition to southern side is one story shed roof with false parapet on eastern facade. Brick covered with cement, this is tooled on eastern facade to resemble blocks. There is a tin cap on the parapet. One diamond shaped window, metal frame, original, single piece plywood, red painted door. Seven 1/1 lights double hung windows, wooden sash frame, plain trim. Wooden slipsills. One entrance with one light, three panels, horizontal boards.

WINDOWS

Northern Facade -

Basement - One roughstone arch, three lights swings up plain wooden trim with wooden lugsill, two 2/2 light double hung windows with wooden trim roughstone arches and wooden lugsills

First Floor - Four stained glass windows identical to first floor southern facade.

Eastern Facade -

Basement - Two door under entrance, three panels horizontal boards and one light window. Three 1/1 double hung windows with mullion, segmental arch tooled in cement. Cement slipsill.

First Floor - Two identical stained glass windows (six lights) with mullion - four lights are rectangular above these two quarter round lights all fixed. Wooden slipsills. Semicircular brick arches with brick keystones. Also one fixed round, stained glass window above entrance with circular wooden trim and circular brick arch.

First and a Half Floor - Two double hung stained glass arched windows. Semicircular brick arch - wooden slipsills.

Western Facade -

Basement - One three light window boarded up. Flat roughstone arch head, wooden slipsill base.

First Floor - Main chancel stained glass window with five lights, top one is half-round, all fixed, semicircular brick arch, double row brick slipsill.

Southern Facade -

Basement - Original entrance five panels horizontal board, replaced door. Flat roughstone arch.

First Floor - Four identical stained glass windows with mullion (six lights) four lights are rectangular and fixed; two quarter round lights swing in. Semicircular brick arches with elongated bricks. Double row brick slipsills.

INTERIOR

The Town Clock Church Building is constructed in a meetinghouse style having a central entrance, narthex, inset tower, nave, chancel and a balcony. In each of two rooms on either side of the narthex is a stairway leading to the balcony. The balcony is divided into two parts by a large pipe organ. The chancel area is raised on a platform and includes a choir loft on both sides, an organ loft, and behind this a baptismal pool. The rear of the chancel area is an arrangement of two wooden pilasters supporting an elliptically arched vault. Between these pilasters are two tiers of paneling, one on either side of a window-like frame closed by a heavy curtain which is opened for the viewing of baptisms in the pool behind the paneling. The present tiled ceiling is below the original plaster one, both of them are shallow arched vaults. The walls of the church are constructed of plaster.

The two identical stairways are one run with a winder turning at a right angle to the balcony. The entire oaken stairway is simply made with a balusters carved into a rounded cross pattern and the newell being a "J" -shaped curve with a simple post. The wooden pegs connecting the handrail and the newell are clearly visible.

The woodwork in the church interior is mostly architrave trim. In the nave are three sets of double doors each being a single wide plank with a cross shaped window. At the entrance to the nave there are two architrave trim pilasters supporting the balcony. The face of the balcony is decorated with slats with tops that meet at angles forming arches in the spaces between them. In the nave are twenty-four long pews. The chancel has a choir loft on either side of an electric organ and is surrounded by a railing with architrave panels made of oak. The wooden pilasters that are at the base of the vault behind the chancel are wooden that is fluted. This arched opening is covered with wooden architrave trim extending from the plain caps of the pilasters. Between these pilasters are two sections of paneling one tier high with architrave trim. These panels help form a frame closed by a curtain for viewing baptisms in the large pool behind it.

The church has two organs, one electric one in the chancel and the other a nineteenth century organ that was recently renovated located in the balcony. A handpump for operating the organ is located in the balcony but is no longer usable because the organ has been converted to electric power. Six lamps hanging on chains over the nave are metal with stained glass lights. A most interesting feature not visible from outside are the illustrated windows. The stained glass windows each have one light that is painted with either a floral or a landscape scene.

Easement

AL-IV-A-102

Form 10-445
(5/6)

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Allegany</u> TOWN <u>Cumberland</u> VICINITY <u>Bedford St</u> STREET NO. <u>Bedford at High St.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Old German Lutheran Church</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>First Christian Church</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Church</u> PRESENT USE <u>Brick</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>AL-76</u> 2. NAME <u>TOWN CLOCK CHURCH</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1848</u> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE			

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes

Cornerstone laid June 1, 1848

Both the German Lutheran and the German Catholic Churches were building churches in Cumberland, Maryland in 1848. To stimulate progress in such worthwhile undertakings, the City Council, under the Mayoralty of Thomas Shriver offered to donate a TOWN CLOCK for the church that was completed first. After much friendly rivalry, the Lutherans won and got the clock. After losing the contest, the steeple of SS Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, Fayette Street, just painted two clock dials on the sides overlooking the town and shutters on the other two.

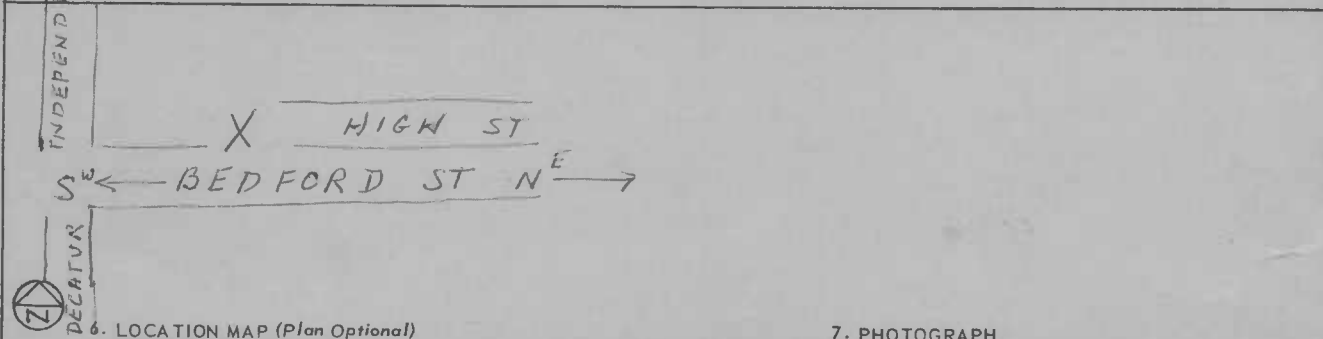
Wording on the present clock states "MENEALY'S, West Troy, N.Y., bought--25th of April A.D. 1864 by the German Ev. Luth. Church at Cumberland, Md. This would seem to indicate that the first clock might have been replaced after 16 years.

Note: In some records the word clock appears as Glocke as in German.

Picture taken of Painting by
Jesse Straw-1969--

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE

Endangered	Excellent	Excellent
	Interior	Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>Town History</u> <u>Newspaper clipping (undated)</u> <u>Scrap book notes.</u>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Hazel Groves Hansrote, Chairman</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> <u>Sec.-Preservation Society</u> <u>Allegany County, Md.</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept. 25, 1970</u>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

INVENTORY NO: AL-IV-A-102DATE: 10/4/77REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor192/221
75 x 120NAME OF PROPERTY: Town Clock ChurchLOCATION OF PROPERTY: Bedford Street at High StreetDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: East 120°NAME OF OWNER: First Christian ChurchADDRESS: 312 Bedford StreetCumberland, Maryland 21502STORIES: 1(X) 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(X) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()WINGS, ADDITIONS: (2)(See other page)DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- Stretcher bond on east.
- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
(X) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. 6/1 and 5/1
() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG Brick pilasters with wooden caps.
() OTHER: Coverings Four on the east and west, five on the north and south.

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others Continuous belt course around the building.FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Coursed rubble - smooth surface, regular ashlarWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick on eastern facade. Quoins are on basement northeast corner.WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()(See other page) pegged(X) nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment(X)ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Center of eastern facade. Portico with triangular pedimentDouble doors each HARDWARE: original() replaced(X) supported by two Roman Columns with
with one panel. FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN ionic caps and two square pilasters.
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards Imbricated slate shingles decorate the
entablature with dentils, stained glass semicircular transom. panel. Pediment has three partCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) Brick cornice on west, wooden returns
original(X) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave on west.Boxed cornice pedimented on eastern facade.Gabled parapetROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers with tin capMATERIAL: wood shingles, (slate, tin, asphalt; original(X) replaced()(rectangular shingles) Imbricated shingles on spire. Snowbirds,PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable(X) Lightning rod.PorticoCHIMNEYS: Number: 4 Brick(X) Stone() Corbeled(3) Three in original position.Exterior side Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end(1) Central() Interior(3)
(1) (Decorated marble)ARCHES: Door & Windows: (Keystone) Flat, Segmental, Semicircular Brick arches
(first floor above door eastern facade.)COMMENTS: Colonial InfluenceUSE: ReligionSIGNIFICANCE: Architecture/HistoryDATE CONSTRUCTED: 1848CONDITION: Fair

FLOOR PLAN:

- (X) CENTRAL HALL: ~~Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side~~
- () SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- () IRREGULAR Central entrance - tower - narthex - nave chancel, elliptical plaster arch. Ceiling shallow vaulted arch original plaster present file.

STAIRWAYS:

- () ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- () OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- () DOG-LEG
- () ~~DOG-LEG~~ with WINDERS One run 90° turn
- () SPIRAL Two identical stairways lead to balcony.
- () ROUNDED
- () SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- (X) PLASTER
- () paneled: original; replaced
- () BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER

LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal

MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush

HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

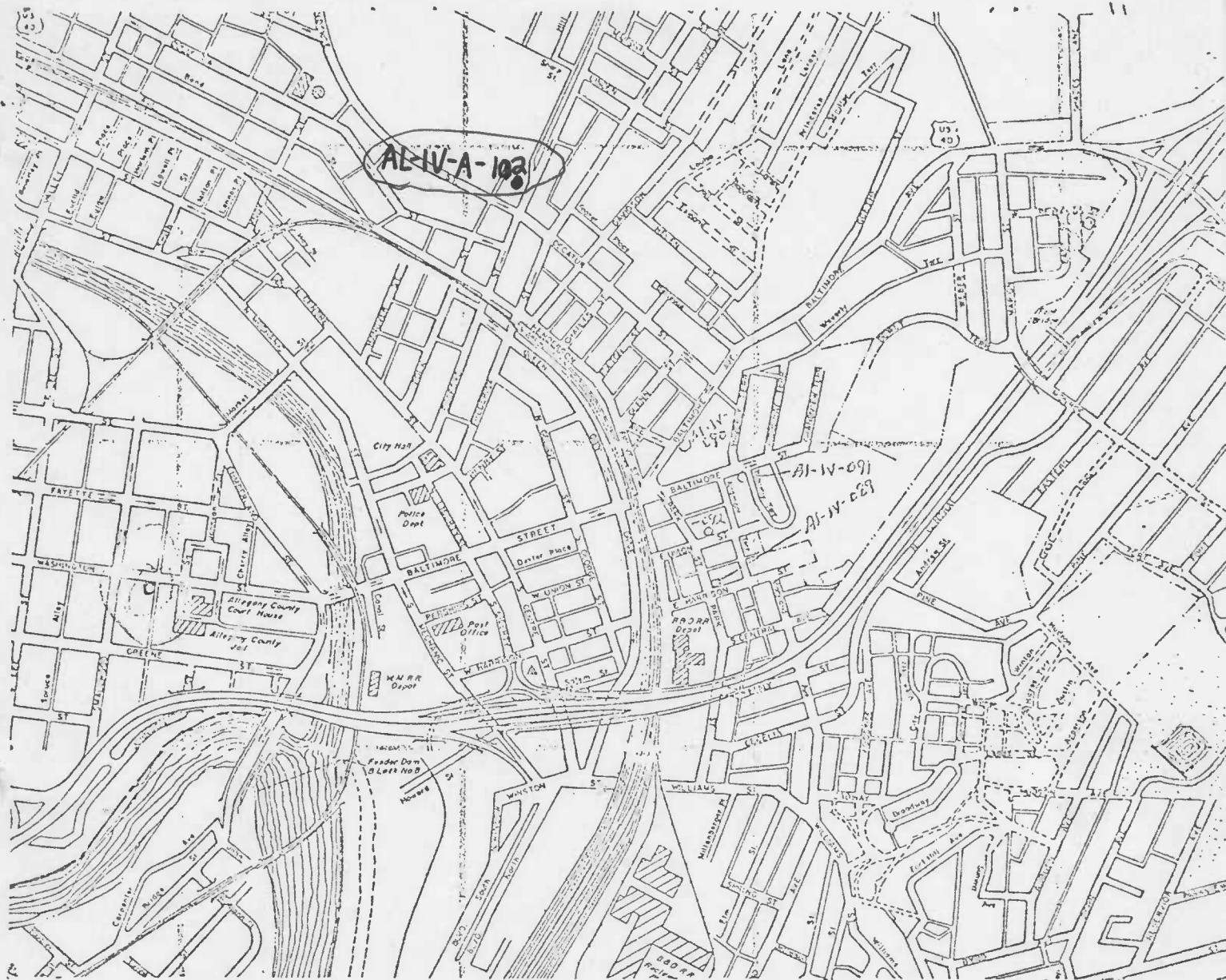
- () PLAIN
- (X) ARCHITRAVE
- () SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- () FLUTED
- () FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- () ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

24 long pews. In chancel fluted wooden pilasters support elliptical vaulted arch behind chancel between pilasters tier of paneling with stage with curtain for viewing baptisms. Chancel organ choir loft has paneled railing, balcony face paneled. Pilasters under balcony architrave trim.

NOTES:

Large baptismal pool behind chancel - pipe organ cuts balcony in half. Large pipe organ - hand pump - in balcony recently restored, six iron lamps chained over nave. Painted windows unobservable from outside.

(See other page - INTERIOR)



AL-IV-A-102
 First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 312 Bedford Street
 Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Map of City of Cumberland,
Allegany Co., Maryland
 Charles R. Nuzum, City Engineer
 revised 1971
 scale:





AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/77

~~WEST~~ NORTHWEST



AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/97

SOUTHEAST



AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/77

EAST



AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/77

SOUTHEAST



TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

LUTHERAN - NOW FIRST
CHRISTIAN

(High St)

Bedford St.

11-IV-A-102

From Painting by Jesse STRAW

from
(Helen Straw - Hunkle) 1970